

Severe local storms, April, 1927—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
West Union, S. C. (near)...	19				\$2,000	Electrical	Barn and contents destroyed.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Winsor, Ill. (near).....	19		50			Tornado	Minor damage to farm property; path 1 mile long.	Do.
Pryor to Choteau, Okla.	20	6 p. m.	8 mi.			Moderate hail.	Damage confined chiefly to crops.	Do.
Abilene, Tex.	20				3,500	High wind	Several frail buildings damaged; awnings torn.	Do.
Nashville, Tenn.	20					Severe thunderstorm and hail.	Quantities of peaches knocked off; trees and garden truck injured; telephones out of order; some damage by flooding.	Do.
Caps to Potosi, Tex.	20				100,000	Heavy hail.	Severe crop and property damage.	Do.
Dallas, Tex.	20-21					Thunderstorm	Residence struck by lightning and burned; 1 person injured.	Do.
Dubuque County, Iowa, westward.	20-21					Sleet.	Overhead wires broken and a few poles snapped.	Do.
Palestine, Tex.	21	12:45 a. m.	100			Tornado.	Considerable damage over small area; telephone and telegraph service crippled for several hours.	Do.
Harmon to Gross, La.	21	2 a. m.	3,520		50,000	Thunderstorm and wind.	Tenant houses on several plantations wrecked; oil derricks overturned; timber damaged; wire communication impaired.	Do.
Ballard County, Ky.	21					Wind and floods.	43 homes moved from foundations by wind.	Do.
Fort Gibson, Okla.	25	9 p. m.				Small tornado.	Several houses and barns demolished; trees uprooted.	Fort Smith Journal (Ark.).
Covington, Ind.	27					Heavy hail.	Damage slight to considerable.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Queen Anne County, Md. (southwestern).	27					do.	Gardens injured; windows broken.	Do.
Hardy, Nebr. (near).....	28	3:30 p. m.	100		5,000	Tornado.	Farm buildings destroyed; path, 9 miles long.	Do.
Gage County (western) and Jefferson County (southeastern), Nebr.	28	6-7 p. m.	5		16,000	do.	Several farm buildings wrecked; trees uprooted; path, 9 miles.	Do.
Anderson and Bourbon Counties, Ky.	29				30,000	Wind.	Buildings damaged.	Do.
Bedford, Scottsburg, and Shelbyville, Ind.	29					Heavy hail.	Damage slight to considerable.	Do.
Centralls, Ill., and vicinity.	29		3,520		50,000	do.	Extensive property damage; orchards not hurt.	Do.
Louisville, Ky., and vicinity.	29				20,000	Wind.	Character of damage not reported.	Do.
Marlinton, W. Va., and vicinity.	29					High wind.	Roofs blown off; a schoolhouse and many trees blown down.	Do.
Fairwood, S. C.	30	2 p. m.			5,000	Thundersquall.	A dwelling and 2 stock barns damaged.	Do.

STORMS AND WEATHER WARNINGS

WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT

In connection with a disturbance over northeastern Missouri, which was moving eastward on the morning of the 1st, northeast storm warnings were ordered between Atlantic City and Boston, and for the next two days radio bulletins indicated strong winds off the Middle Atlantic coast. Winds occurred as forecast in the advices.

On the evening of the 6th, with a disturbance over the lower St. Lawrence valley, advices were issued by radio for strong winds on the following day along the Atlantic coast from Sandy Hook northward. Similar advices were distributed the morning of the 7th for the Middle and North Atlantic coast. Strong winds reaching gale force at times occurred substantially as indicated.

Special observations at 2 p. m. of the 9th indicated the development of a disturbance with probable northeast movement near Cape Hatteras, and northeast storm warnings were ordered from Delaware Breakwater to Boston. The disturbance, however, moved almost due east and winds on the coast were only fresh, but were strong off the coast in region of storm center, as far east as Bermuda.

Southeast storm warnings were ordered on the east Gulf coast between Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Apalachicola, Fla., on the morning of the 14th in connection with a disturbance over southeastern Texas. Winds were strong at times over the greater portion of the area indicated.

Small-craft warnings were ordered on the 20th from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport, on the 21st from Bay St. Louis, Miss., to Apalachicola, Fla., and on the 22d from Boston to Jacksonville.

On the morning of the 26th, with a disturbance of considerable intensity over Lake Huron, southwest storm warnings were hoisted from Delaware Breakwater

to Eastport, and strong winds occurred. Small-craft warnings were also ordered south of Delaware Breakwater to Norfolk.

On the 17th storm warnings were ordered at 3 p. m. from Delaware Breakwater to Cape Hatteras in connection with a disturbance over Ohio, and strong winds and gales occurred over the region of display.

Small-craft warnings were hoisted at 10:30 a. m. of the 29th from Delaware Breakwater to Boston.

Warnings of frost or freezing temperatures were issued for considerable areas on the 11th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 24th, and 30th, and for limited areas on the 1st, 5th, 14th, and 21st, with timely accuracy in the great majority of cases.—*R. H. Weightman.*

CHICAGO FORECAST DISTRICT

The two outstanding features of the weather of April, 1927, in the Chicago forecast district were the frequency with which precipitation occurred, and the severe freeze at the beginning of the third decade. Not a single 12-hour period (considered as beginning at 7 a. m. and 7 p. m.) passed without at least 0.01 of an inch of precipitation somewhere in the district, while the freeze caused serious damage over a wide area in the southern portion of the district.

Frost warnings.—At the beginning of the month vegetation was subject to frost damage only in the extreme southern part of the district, but by the close this stage had been reached elsewhere in the forecast district, except in most of the Dakotas and the northern portions of Minnesota and Michigan. The only frost warning issued prior to the 14th was that on the 1st for southeastern Kansas, most of the fore part of the month having been cloudy and rainy.

On the morning of the 21st general warnings of freezing temperature or of heavy to killing frost were issued for practically all the southern half of the district. At that time an abnormally cold high pressure area overlay the

Rocky Mountain region and the Great Plains section. At Huron, S. Dak., the temperature fell to 13°, breaking all previous records there for so late in the season. The frost and freeze occurred as forecast and the resulting damage was, as has already been stated, serious over a wide area. The movement of this high-pressure area was sluggish, with the result that frost occurred successively on four nights in much of the southeastern part of the district. Another frosty period occurred at the close of the month in portions of the Lake region, and fruit and vegetables suffered further injury in lower Michigan. Most of these frosts were forecast.

Storm warnings.—The storm-warning season on the Great Lakes opened on the 10th—about five days earlier than usual. Prior to that date three advisory warnings were issued for Lake Michigan. These were on the 1st, 4th, and 8th. In the first two cases winds of storm force occurred over the lake. Those of the 4th were severe in certain cases where thunderstorms were an accompaniment. Thus, at Chicago the 5-minute maximum velocity was at the rate of 58 miles an hour, with an extreme velocity of 66 miles an hour. Furthermore, the Dines pressure tube anemometer registered a gust at the rate of 77 miles an hour.

After the beginning of the storm-warning season proper, either storm or small-craft warnings were issued on seven occasions.

On the night of the 12th northeast storm warnings were displayed along the west shore of Lake Michigan from Chicago to Sheboygan. Verifying winds occurred as forecast.

The next storm warning of importance was issued on the 19th for the upper Lakes. A disturbance of considerable intensity was at that time over the upper Mississippi and lower Missouri Valleys, with a cold high pressure area over the northwest—the same high-pressure area that later caused the severe freeze referred to in a previous paragraph. On the evening of this date the warnings were extended over the lower Lakes. They were verified on the upper Lakes and on extreme western Lake Erie.

Storm warnings were again issued on the 21st for all the Great Lakes except Lake Superior. These were verified only in part, but fresh to strong winds were general.

A timely small-craft warning for all the Great Lakes was issued on the night of the 25th, and again on the following night for the upper Lakes.

A well-defined storm was centered on the morning of the 29th over Missouri and appeared to call for storm warnings on Lakes Erie and the southern portions of Huron and Michigan. However, the storm took an east-southeast course, and the only verifying velocity reported was that at Chicago.—*C. A. Donnel.*

NEW ORLEANS FORECAST DISTRICT

Over the middle Mississippi Valley and western tributary basins, especially the basins of the White, Arkansas, Ouachita, and Red Rivers, heavy rainfall from April 7 to 16 resulted from low pressure over the Southwestern States, while the pressure was high over the Great Lakes and the north-central districts; and very heavy rains from the 19th to the 21st occurred during the passage of a trough of low pressure followed by an area of unusually high pressure. Occurring while a great flood was in progress, this remarkably heavy April rainfall resulted in far higher water on the Mississippi River, from Cairo to near the mouth, than had ever previously been recorded.

Southeast storm warnings were displayed from Morgan City to Brownsville at 8 p. m. of the 12th, because of a well-defined disturbance over the Rio Grande Valley. This disturbance moved slowly and the warnings were continued at 8 p. m. of the 13th, small-craft warnings having been displayed meanwhile on the Louisiana coast east of Morgan City. The warnings were verified.

Southeast storm warnings were displayed on the Texas coast from 8:30 p. m. of the 17th to 8:30 p. m. of the 19th because of a trough of low pressure which was attended by strong southerly winds to gales on the Texas coast.

On the night of the 20th–21st an area of high pressure advanced rapidly to the Texas coast, after the manner of a winter “norther,” and northerly gales reached the east coast of Texas in the early morning of the 21st. Northwest storm warnings were displayed at 8:30 a. m. of the 21st on the Texas and Louisiana coasts and were justified; “norther” advices for Tampico, Mexico, were issued at this time.

Frost warnings for the northwestern and occasionally for the northeastern portion of the district were issued on the 1st, 17th, 20th, and 21st, the warnings of the 21st applying also to most interior sections of the southern portion. Conditions generally occurred as forecast.—*R. A. Dyke.*

DENVER FORECAST DISTRICT

Temperatures averaged considerably below normal in Montana, Wyoming, and northern Utah, and above normal in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. There was an excess of precipitation in Wyoming and eastern Montana; elsewhere in the district amounts were below normal. The noteworthy feature of the month was the stormy weather in Wyoming extending from the 10th to the 16th, inclusive. During most of this week snowfall was state-wide and almost continuous. The amounts in the southern and eastern parts of the State were heavy, the accumulated depth on the ground at Cheyenne being 10 inches on the 14th. Traffic of all kinds, including the transcontinental air mail, was delayed considerably during this period. While livestock suffered considerably, there were no great losses. Warnings of frost or freezing temperature were issued almost every day, mostly for western Colorado, but occasionally for eastern Colorado, New Mexico, and southern Wyoming; these warnings were generally verified. Advices of fresh to strong winds were furnished the air mail services in southern Wyoming and eastern Colorado on the 2d, 3d, 8th, 9th, and 18th. No cold-wave warnings were issued.—*E. B. Gittings.*

SAN FRANCISCO FORECAST DISTRICT

The barometer was low over the lower latitudes of the ocean at the beginning of the month, a condition precedent to rather general rains in the Pacific States for a few days thereafter and calling for small craft warnings on the central California coast on the 1st. The barometer rose gradually over the ocean south of latitude 40°, while a disturbance which proved to be of persistent character developed in the upper Gulf of Alaska. A series of offshoots from the latter passed inland between the 2d and 7th, the last of which required the display of warnings at seaports in Oregon and Washington on the 6th. On the 8th the center of low pressure shifted inland from the Gulf of Alaska to the Great Basin consonant with a change in orientation of the major axis of the Pacific high to a north-south trend. This situation prevailed until the 13th of the month, and during this